Currently, the Examiner rejects Claims 15, 16 and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for reasons set forth on pages 3 and 4 of the Office action. Without comment on the merits of the Examiner's rejection but to advance prosecution towards an allowance, Applicants are amending the claims to overcome the rejection by adopting the scope of the subject matter that the Examiner deems enabling. As a consequence, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and the application be held allowable.

It is noted as a reminder of the record that non-elected Claims 23-28 (Group V) are recited below to afford the Examiner the opportunity to rejoin the process claims with the allowable product claims. The Office action mailed September 7, 2005 made it clear that rejoinder is available to this set of claims ("should the elected product of Group I ... be found allowable, the method of Group V can be rejoined"). Consequently, Applicants respectfully ask that the Examiner kindly rejoin the process Claims 23-28 and allow the application, as presently amended, to issue as a patent. If any outstanding question remains, the Examiner is invited to please contact the undersigned attorney for a discussion of mutually agreeable solutions.

Accordingly, favorable treatment is urged.

Respectfully submitted,

VIRGINIA TECH INTELLECTUAL PROPERTIES, INC. and IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

Date: May 10, 2007

By: Anch Roseblen Anne M. Rosenblum Attorney for Applicants

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